(ii) Food processing Industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.

(iii) Most of processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation)/Act, 1951.

(iv) Automatic approval for foreign equity up to 100 per cent available for most of the processed food items excepting alcohol and beer and those reserved for small scale sector, subject to certain conditions.

Role of Coconut Development Board

4147. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation by Government to ensure that the Coconut Development Board takes a more pro active role in the marketing of coconuts from Andhra Pradesh in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of this representation;

(c) whether any steps have been initiated in this regard by the Coconut Development Board;

(d) if not, what are the reasons for neglect of this aspect of the coconut economy; and

(e) steps proposed to improve the functioning of the Coconut Development Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Coconut Development Board had conducted State level seminar on Processing and marketing in Andhra Pradesh at Radapalligudam involving representatives of major industries, farmers, traders and research organisation etc. The Board's State Centre at Hyderabad regularly participates in various exhibitions and fairs. Besides, local level seminars organised by the Board. To promote utilisation of coconut by products like desiccated coconut powder, coconut milk powder and packaged tender coconut water, the Board has conducted consumer acceptability studies in Andhra Pradesh. It is proposed to further intensify market promotional activities by the Board during 9th Plan.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Coconut Development Board is efficiently discharging its legitimate and important functions which include :

(i) Adopting measures for the development of coconut industry so that farmers, particularly small farmers, may become participants and beneficiaries of the development and growth of coconut industry.

(ii) Recommending measures for improving the marketing of coconut and its products in India.

(iii) Imparting technical advice to any person who is engaged in the cultivation of coconut or the processing or the marketing of coconut and its products.

(iv) Providing financial or other assistance for the development of high yielding coconut hybrids, adoption of improved methods of cultivation of coconut, modern technology for processing of coconut and extension of areas under coconut cultivation (including replanting) with a view to improving the growth of coconut industry;

(v) Assisting, encouraging, promoting or financing agricultural, technological, industrial or economic research on coconut and its products in such manner as the Board may deem fit by making use of available institutions.

(vi) Undertaking such publicity and publishing such publications like books and periodicals on the research and development of coconut and its products, as may be found necessary.

Restriction on Production and Distribution of Milk and Milk Products

4148. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that many rules and regulations of the Centre and the States are restricting the production and distribution of the milk and milk products; and

(b) whether Government propose any relaxation of these regulations for large scale availability of the dairy products as it has become an unrestricted item of import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.